

I will always defend and fight against defunding the police.

HONORING SHEILA CURRANS

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a dedicated leader in rural healthcare.

After 48 years, Sheila Currans retires as the CEO of Harrison Memorial Hospital. Mrs. Currans' service began as a high school candy striper. She served as a medical-surgical nurse, an ICU/CCU head nurse, and supervisor of nursing. She led for 5 years as COO and then was named CEO in 2009.

Harrison Memorial Hospital, located in rural Cynthiana, Kentucky, serves people from a seven-county region and is one of the few remaining independent, not-for-profit hospitals in Kentucky.

The people of Harrison County and the surrounding counties have been fortunate to have a great leader in Mrs. Currans and her passion for healthcare excellence, leadership experience, and understanding of rural healthcare needs. She will be missed, and I wish Sheila Currans all the best in her well-deserved retirement.

PRESERVE HYDE AMENDMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOONEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our most fundamental God-given right, our right to life.

Enshrined in our Declaration of Independence is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our government should reflect this commitment to life, but the continued practice of abortion-on-demand across the country runs contrary to this commitment. Abortion deprives innocent, defenseless, unborn babies of their right to life.

Thankfully, there are certain legal protections, like the Hyde amendment, in place to safeguard hardworking Americans' tax dollars and save lives. The Hyde amendment simply prevents the taxpayer funding of abortions. Since 1976, the Hyde amendment has saved 2.5 million lives.

According to a Marist poll taken this year, the vast majority of Republicans and Independents, and nearly a third of Democrats, believe that tax dollars should not be used to pay for abortions.

Since 1976, Republican and Democrat Members of Congress have found agreement in keeping the Hyde amendment. President Biden himself publicly supported the Hyde amendment for decades. In a 1977 letter to constituents, which I have right here, Senator Biden wrote that voting to support the Hyde amendment "is the position which I have consistently supported."

He goes on to say: "The Senate, however, passed a broader definition of the circumstances under which Medicaid funds could be used to pay for an abortion. I did not support this version." Those are Senator Biden's words.

Furthermore, in 1994, in another letter to a constituent at the time, Sen-

ator Biden upheld his support of Hyde protections, saying: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

But today, President Biden has kowtowed to the radical left and has removed Hyde protections from his budget proposal. President Biden is turning his back on innocent life in their mother's womb.

The Hyde amendment has saved millions of lives and has stopped Americans who are morally opposed to abortion from being forced to pay for it.

I call on President Biden to return to his previous position, which opposed the taxpayer funding of abortion, abide by the teaching of his own self-professed Catholic faith, and follow the lead of his predecessors from both sides of the aisle who preserved the Hyde amendment in their Presidential budget proposals.

HONORING KENNETH C. THAYER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible life and military career of one of New York State's most decorated World War II veterans, U.S. Army National Guard veteran Private First Class Kenneth C. Thayer, the handsome man you see pictured behind me.

Mr. Thayer is part of a distinguished National Guard unit that displayed heroic and patriotic service in defense of the United States. In recognition of his unwavering service to our Nation, I recently had the opportunity to present Mr. Thayer with the Presidential Unit Citation, one of the highest honors a military unit can receive. Here is the picture of me meeting Mr. Thayer this weekend.

The Army has requested this Presidential Unit Citation for the 30th Infantry Division since 1946. It wasn't until last year, nearly 75 years later, that President Trump recognized this unit and the well-deserving group of men for their selfless acts of bravery and devotion to our country.

Mr. Thayer was a soldier in the National Guard's 30th Infantry Division, a unit known for their exemplary conduct in both World War I and World War II. The 30th Division was formed in 1917, soon after the United States had entered World War I. They fought heroically in France against the German Army, and once the war ended, they returned to their prewar status in the National Guard.

Then, on September 1, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland, initiating World War II. The 30th Division was quickly reinstated by 1940 and called upon to fight. They first saw combat on Omaha Beach on June 11, 1944.

Mr. Thayer entered Active service on December 9, 1943, just 2 years after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. A Utica native, Mr. Thayer was sent to the 30th after recovering from an in-

jury he sustained in 1944. His division was nicknamed "Old Hickory" because the majority of the men were from Southern States closely associated with President Andrew Jackson, and Mr. Thayer would grow very close with many of them.

The 30th would go on to become one of the most important forces in the United States' European Theater Operations. The 30th Division was in active combat from June 1944 to April 1945, a total of 282 days.

One of its most challenging battles was fought at Mortain, France. From August 6, 1944, to August 12, 1944, the 30th Infantry Division was faced with continuous attack from German forces, who were attempting to break through Allied lines.

Over 2,000 men in this division alone died while fighting to drive Germans from France, but the courage of this division helped turn the tide of the war and will be remembered for generations to come.

Mr. Thayer coauthored two volumes titled "The Young Liberators: From Civilian to Soldier"—I have the book here, a wonderful account—with historian Allan Foote, whose father also served in the 30th Infantry Division during World War II, Master Sergeant Arthur A. Foote.

Writing about one of the artillery barrages during that period, Mr. Thayer states in his book: "I kept on scrambling around in a futile attempt to find someone, anyone I could help. . . . Out of 220 men, I was the only survivor. It was an absolute nightmare."

It is almost impossible to imagine the atrocities that these men witnessed. As Americans, we remember the bravery and sacrifice that Mr. Thayer and so many of the 30th endured.

Between June 1944 and May 1945, the men of the United States 30th Infantry Division participated in every major Western European campaign, from Normandy to the Elbe River. Known as the "Workhorse of the Western Front," the 30th was ranked as the top infantry division by a team of historians who worked under General Eisenhower. His chief historian, Colonel S.L.A. Marshall, declared the 30th "the finest infantry division in the European Theater of Operations."

The reputation of Old Hickory is that of resolute dedication and valor. They are viewed as heroic not only to Americans but to those whom they saved overseas.

For instance, in the Netherlands, where the 30th Division liberated the town of Maastricht, the townspeople created a cemetery for these lost souls. To this day, the community continues to place American flags at the gravesites every May in their memory. The town officials still keep in touch with Mr. Thayer even though he is living in assisted living.

For this service, Mr. Thayer has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, two Bronze Stars, and three Purple Hearts.